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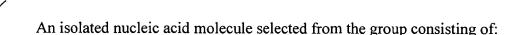
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- a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 55% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 3 or a complement thereof;
- a nucleic acid molecule comprising a fragment of at least 300 nucleotides b) of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 3 or a complement thereof;
- a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;
- d) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the fragment comprises at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- e) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the nucleic acid molecule hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1, 3 or a complement thereof under stringent conditions.
- 2. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, which is selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, or a complement thereof; and
- b) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
- 3. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 further comprising vector nucleic acid sequences.
- 1 4. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 further comprising nucleic acid 2 sequences encoding a heterologous polypeptide.
  - 5. A host cell which contains the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.
  - 6. The host cell of claim 5 which is a mammalian host cell.
- 1 7. A non-human mammalian host cell containing the nucleic acid molecule 2 of claim 1.
  - An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of: 8.

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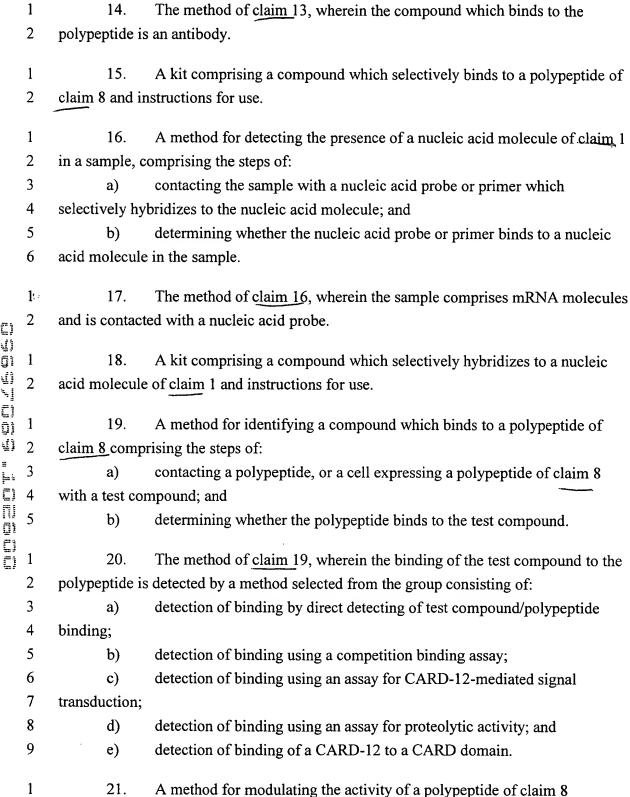
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- a) a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the fragment comprises at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2;
  - b) a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1, 3 or a complement thereof under stringent conditions; and
  - c) a polypeptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 65% identical to a nucleic acid consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, or a complement thereof.
  - 9. The isolated polypeptide of claim 8 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
    - 10. The polypeptide of claim 8 further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.
      - 11. An antibody which selectively binds to a polypeptide of claim 8.
    - 12. A method for producing a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
      - a) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;
    - b) a polypeptide comprising a fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the fragment comprises at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2; and
    - c) a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1, 3, or a complement thereof under stringent conditions;

comprising culturing the host cell of claim 5 under conditions in which the nucleic acid molecule is expressed.

- 1 13. A method for detecting the presence of a polypeptide of claim 8 in a 2 sample, comprising:
- a) contacting the sample with a compound which selectively binds to a
  polypeptide of claim 8; and
  - b) determining whether the compound binds to the polypeptide in the sample.



comprising contacting a polypeptide or a cell expressing a polypeptide of claim 8 with a

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- compound which binds to the polypeptide in a sufficient concentration to modulate the
   activity of the polypeptide.
  - 22. A method for identifying a compound which modulates the activity of a polypeptide of claim-8, comprising:
    - a) contacting a polypeptide of claim 8 with a test compound; and
- b) determining the effect of the test compound on the activity of the polypeptide to thereby identify a compound which modulates the activity of the polypeptide.
- 1 23. A method of treating a disorder associated with inappropriate apoptosis, 2 the method comprising modulating the expression or activity of CARD-12.